Visa Fee

2490. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative figures fo the visa fee before and after its recent increase; and

(b) the amount estimated to be earned by this increase in visa fee?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Prior to November, 1991 visa fee ranged between Rs. 15-1800 depending upon nationality of applicant and type of visa asked for. Now the visa fee regime has been simplified and is ranging between Rs. 15-2600; except where issued gratis.

(b) It is estimated that the total annual amount from visa fee after increase will be Rs. 125 crore.

Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation

2491. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-Soviet Peace, Friendship and Cooperation Treaty has not yet been formally extended for further 20 years as agreed to in principle by the two countries in August last; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). The Treaty already stands extended for a period of 5 years, under the terms of the existing treaty itself. The Govts. of both the countries have decided and already declared to further extend the Treaty for a period of 20 years. However, the delay in signing the protocol has been due to developments within the Soviet Union. The protocol formally extending the Treaty for a further period of 20 years is expected to be signed in the near future.

[*Translation*]

Export of Iron

2492. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the production of iron in the country during 1990-91;

(b) the number of countries to which iron was exported during 1990-91 and the quantity thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to export iron to some more countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The production of pig iron in the country during the 1990-91 was 14.93 lakh tonnes.

(b) Export of pig iron is banned, as per the current import-export policy.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[*English*]

Expenditure on Flood Control Measures

2493. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARE RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Union